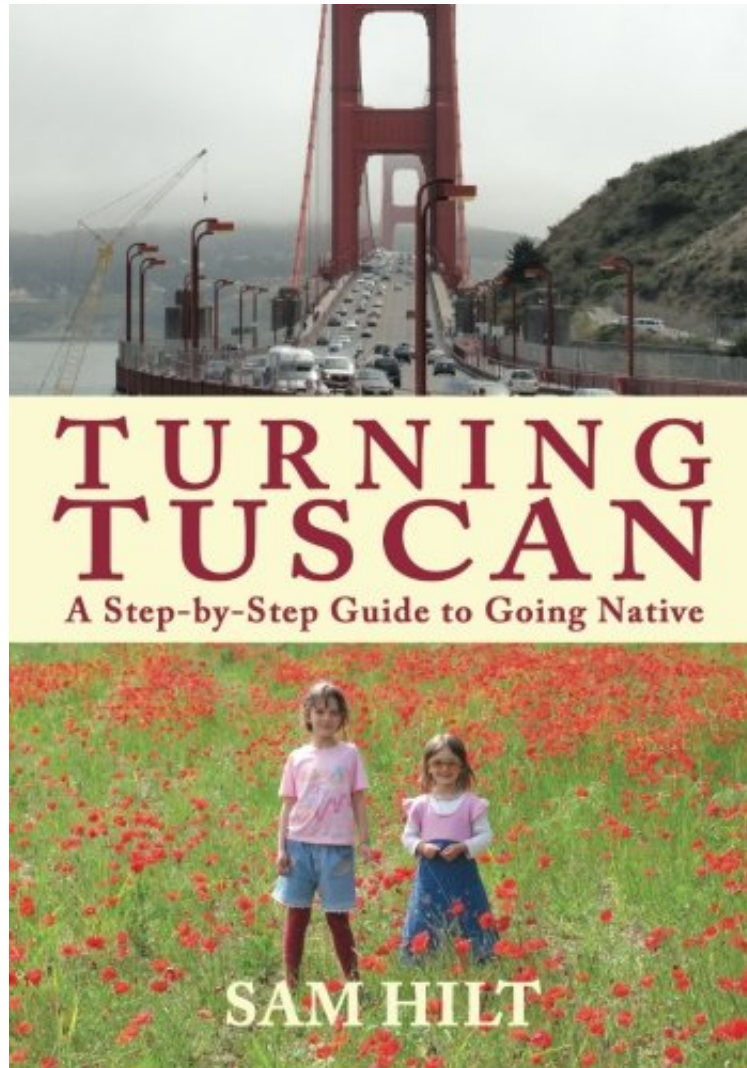


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## Turning Tuscan: A Step-by-Step Guide to Going Native

*Sam Hilt*

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**Sam Hilt : Turning Tuscan: A Step-by-Step Guide to Going Native** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Turning Tuscan: A Step-by-Step Guide to Going Native:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If You are Moving to Tuscany, Then This Book is for YouBy Susan MahalickBeing an expat myself, I enjoy reading books by other Americans who live abroad. Especially if they are filled with both practical advice and humor like this one by Sam Hilt. He and his wife not only fall in love with Italy, but they make the bold move of living overseas with their young children. They vacationed in Tuscany every summer so the entire family is oriented to living in another country. I did a simiiar thing myself with long weekends in Baja before I made the leap of crossing the border to live. Pick up a copy even if you do not plan to move to Italy and get

ready for a good read. Author of a practical guide to living in Baja, *My Gold Coast*---Baja4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *Turning Tuscan: A Step-by-Step Guide*By sue noeI found myself laughing out loud as I read about Sam's experiences. This was a very well written book, and I could easily relate to the stories that Sam told. I recommend this book to anybody wanting to make the move to Tuscany. I am also an American who has moved to Tuscany and I can attest to the veracity of these stories! Sue3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Making the move: a review of the joys and frustrations of life in small town Italy*By Chip StitesAn enduring bureaucracy as difficult as it is to deal with, may well protect a wonderful lifestyle. This is a wonderful book if you should desire a funny, easy to read yet in-depth look at Italian culture. After reading this book if convenience is important you probably won't move to Italy. On the other hand if a relaxed, involved, community life which leans towards family and food is your desire, start packing. I loved the book. I'll most likely read it more than once.

"Turning Tuscan" is a story about what it's like to fall in love with Tuscany in your mid-life years, to buy a home there, to change around your work, and, finally, to leave the San Francisco Bay Area and move with your wife and children to a tiny Tuscan village. That's the first part. The second part tries to share what it's like living here once you've made the move: learning the language, becoming part of a village community, running a tour company, understanding the political scene, getting an internet connection, enjoying Renaissance art, spending time in the hospital, appreciating the bureaucracy, and enduring customer service at The Phone Company. It has been written in a way that will make you feel like an honored guest invited into the cockpit as we transfer from America to Tuscany and set up shop. And, in case you are wondering what kind of crazy person does such a thing, and whether you might be one, I try to share enough personal history and detail about our lives on both sides of the ocean to satisfy your curiosity. As a foreigner who enters into another culture, there is a limited window of time available to you to see these things and to try to record them in some way. You have to become Italian enough to play the game, but not so Italian yet that it all becomes invisible. If you wait too long, you are no longer in a position to reflect or comment on cultural differences because what people are doing seems totally normal to you. Ripeness is all, as the poet said, and hopefully I've managed to capture for you some of the subtler aspects of living here that travel photos, even high resolution ones, can never reveal.

About the AuthorSam Hilt's other works include a guidebook to Florence's Uffizi Gallery ("The Uffizi Gallery"); a volume of essays that explores the major works of the Florentine Renaissance ("The Renaissance of Imagination"); and a brief introduction to the art of travel planning ("Paradise Now: How to Plan the Perfect Italy Vacation"). All titles are available on . While teaching part-time in the San Francisco Bay Area for several years, Sam and his wife began organizing summer art seminars in Florence for American travelers. Their avocation gradually became their primary activity, and they have been busy for these past twelve years developing cultural travel adventures throughout Italy and France. Their travel company, Tuscany Tours, may be found on the web at [www.TuscanyTours.com](http://www.TuscanyTours.com). Sam Hilt was born in Munich, Germany, and grew up in Newark, New Jersey. He studied Comparative Literature (English, French, Russian) at Brandeis University (B.A.) and at the University of Toronto (M.A.). He also holds a Masters degree in Psychology from Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA, and a Doctorate in Psychology from The Union Institute in Cincinnati. Sam and Pamela and their two daughters, Siena and Emma, currently spend most of their time in a tiny medieval village in Tuscany.